

Appl. No. 09/557,597
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 3 May 2005

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REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-7, 13, and 19-27 are pending in this application.

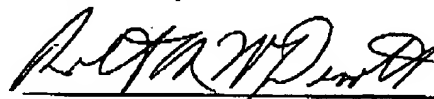
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.116(b), after a final rejection or other final action in an application, amendments may be made canceling claims; and, the Examiner may admit amendments that place the claims in a better condition for allowance or appeal.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its parent claim. Claim 7 is correspondingly amended herein. Claim 1 is canceled, and claims 2, 4-6, and 13 are correspondingly amended to be dependent upon claim 7. The applicant respectfully maintains that this amendment adds no new matter, and does not require an additional search, because claim 7 has been fully examined and specifically addressed in the final Office action of 3 May 2005.

Claims 1, 8-12, and 14-18 are canceled herein. The applicants reserve the right to prosecute each of the canceled claims of this application in a divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the present application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. McDermott, Esq.
Reg. No. 41,508
804-493-0707